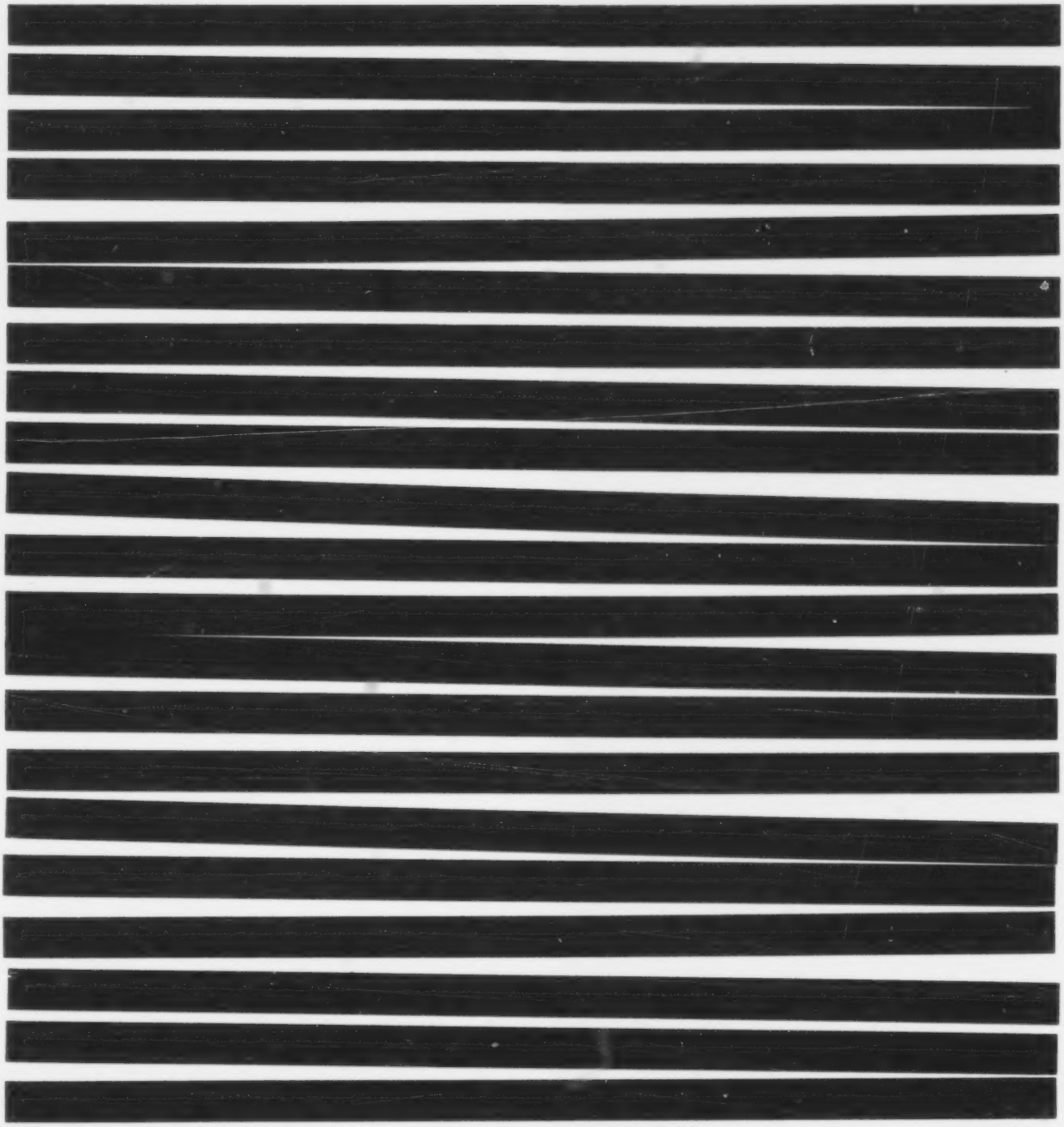
Province of
British Columbia

Legal Services Commission

ANNUAL REPORT 1977/1978



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Province of
British Columbia

LEGAL SERVICES COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT 1977/1978

Table of Contents

I. INTRODUCTION 3

II. DIRECT LEGAL SERVICES 4
- A. Legal Aid Society 4
- B. Community Law Offices 7
- C. Native Legal Services 10
- D. Vancouver Community Legal Assistance Society 11
- E. Elizabeth Fry Society 12
- F. Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of British Columbia 12

III. INDIRECT LEGAL SERVICES 15
- A. Training 15
- B. Research and Evaluation 15
- C. Public Legal Education and Legal Information Services 16
- D. Schools Legal Education Project 19
  - i) Curriculum Development Projects 19
  - ii) Educational Programs 19
  - iii) Courtwatching Program 20

IV. BUDGET 21

APPENDIX A: Audited Financial Statement for Preceding Year 21
APPENDIX B: Draft Budget for 1978-1979 28

CHAPTER I

Introduction

This is the Third Annual Report of the Legal Services Commission, describing the Commission's activities from April 1, 1977 to March 31, 1978.

The Legal Services Commission was created by the Legal Services Commission Act in 1975. The purpose of the Commission is set out in Section 3 of the Legal Services Commission Act as follows:

> *"3. The object and purpose of the Commission is to see that legal services are effectively provided to, and readily obtainable by the people of British Columbia, with special emphasis on those people to whom those services are not presently available for financial or other reasons."*

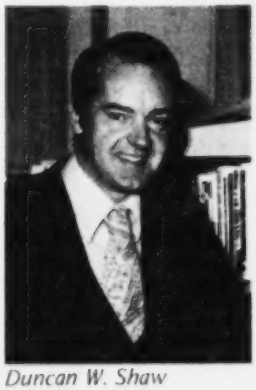
This report will survey the work which has been done by the Commission and the agencies it funds in this third year to ensure that legal services are effectively provided to the people of British Columbia. The Legal Services Commission Act defines legal services as including:

> *"(i) education, advice and information in or about the law;*
> *(ii) any legal services that may be provided by a barrister and solicitor or a notary public."*

The work of the Commission has therefore been directed at two types of services, client services provided on an individual basis, and education and information services provided to the general public. This report describes these two types of activities funded by the Commission as direct legal services and indirect legal services.

The Legal Services Commission Act provides for the appointment of five commissioners. Two are appointed by the Provincial Cabinet, two by the Law Society of British Columbia, and one by the Provincial Attorney-General after consultation with the Federal Minister of Justice. The Commissioners of the Legal Services Commission for 1977/78 were as follows:

Donald Jabour, Commissioner & Chairman *(to October 30, 1977)*
Helen Jones, Commissioner *(to October 30, 1977)*
Peter Manson, Commissioner
Duncan W. Shaw, Commissioner & Chairman (Chairman *from November 1977)*
W.J. Wallace, Commissioner
David Smith, Commissioner *(from March 1978)*



Duncan W. Shaw

Donald Jabour

The senior staff of the Commission for 1977/78 were:

Executive Director – **Jack Kent**
Director Public Legal Education/Legal Information Services – **Marian E. Richeson**
Director Native Legal Services – **Keith Sero**
Director Schools Legal Education Project – **Gary Onstad** *(to July 1977)* **Wanda Cassidy** and **Peter Ellis** *(from August 1977)*
Director of Training – **Penny Bain** *(from February 1978)*
Commission Counsel – **Dan Maas** *(from February 1978)*

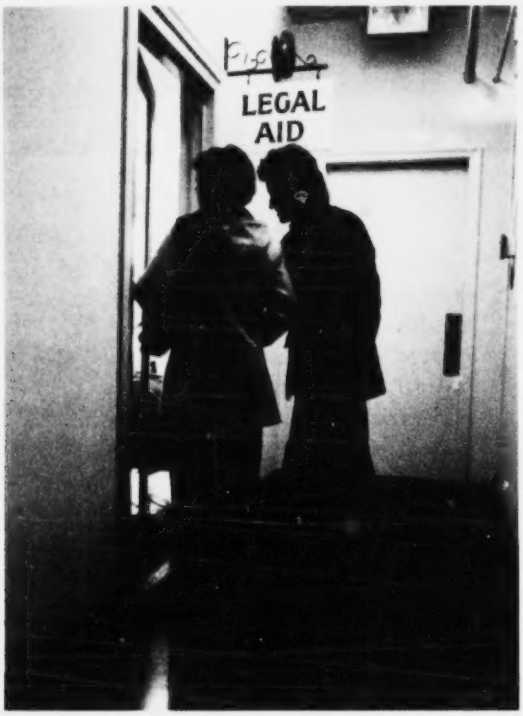
CHAPTER II

Direct Legal Services

A. LEGAL AID SOCIETY

The fundamental objective of the Legal Aid Society is to provide a program of legal aid to those unable to afford legal services. The Society operates fourteen full-time offices, located at Campbell River, Kamloops, Nelson, Prince Rupert, Victoria, Chilliwack, Kelowna, New Westminster, Surrey, Williams Lake, Cranbrook, Prince George, Vancouver and Nanaimo.

The Legal Aid Society also retains private lawyers in sixteen other locations to act as Area Directors, receiving applications, determining eligibility and referring cases to lawyers in their areas. The Area Directors are located in Dawson Creek, Duncan, Fort Nelson, Golden, Pemberton, Penticton, Powell River, Quesnel, Revelstoke, Richmond, Salmon Arm, Smithers, Squamish, Terrace, Tofino and Whitehorse.



Services

Criminal Law

Legal Aid is available to anyone who is financially eligible and is charged with an indictable offence. It is also available for persons charged with any federal summary conviction offence where there is a substantial likelihood that, if convicted, the person will receive a prison sentence or lose his means of earning a living.

In addition, legal aid is available for proceedings under the Juvenile Delinquents Act for which the applicant would qualify if he were an adult, and for all proceedings under the Extradition Act and the Fugitive Offenders Act.

Most criminal legal aid clients who qualify for assistance are referred to members of the private Bar who are experienced in criminal law. If a client requests a specific lawyer, an effort is made to have that lawyer appointed, subject to availability. Counsel are paid for their services according to a Provincial tariff schedule.

The types of cases handled by lawyers in private practice on the criminal law tariff are as follows:

TABLE I
CRIMINAL TARIFF BY TYPE OF OFFENCE

Type of Offence	1976/77 No. of Proceedings	%	1977/78 No. of Proceedings	%
Homicide	173	1.0	195	1.3
Sexual Offences	235	1.3	258	1.7
Assaults	1,473	8.3	1,259	8.4
Robbery	714	4.1	710	4.7
Breaking and Entering	2,083	11.8	2,120	14.1
Theft	2,828	16.0	2,321	15.4
Possession of Stolen Property	905	5.1	773	5.1
Frauds	1,166	6.6	1,108	7.3
Prostitution	84	0.5	148	1.0
Gaming and Betting	5	0.0	4	0.0
Weapons	581	3.3	546	3.6
Property	595	3.4	325	2.2
Escaping	756	4.3	412	2.7
Driving Offences	526	3.0	422	2.8
Drinking Offences	2,097	11.9	1,825	12.1
Other Criminal Code Offences	778	4.4	452	3.0
Narcotics Offences	2,387	13.5	1,992	13.2
Other Federal Offences	70	0.4	56	0.4
Provincial M.V. Offences	41	0.2	78	0.5
Other Provincial Offences	159	0.9	71	0.5
Municipal By-laws	1	0.0	0	0.0
TOTAL	17,657	100.0	15,075	100.0

Family Law

The Society provides Counsel for the following matters:

1) respondents, under the Family Relations Act;
2) parents under the Protection of Children Act;
3) applicants or respondents under the Children of Unmarried Parents Act;
4) children in any family law matter in which they need independent representation;
5) all family law matters in the County Court, Supreme Court of British Columbia, British Columbia Supreme Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada.

Funding agreements have not provided resources for services to applicants for relief in the Family Court, and during the past year the Society has been working together with the Ministry of the Attorney-General to find ways of improving these services.

The types of cases handled by lawyers in private practice on the family law tariff are as follows:

TABLE II
FAMILY TARIFF BY TYPE OF PROCEEDING

Type of Proceeding	1976/77 No. of Proceedings	%	1977/78 No. of Proceedings	%
Family Relations Act				
Maintenance	406	9.3	511	11.2
Show Cause	68	1.6	75	1.6
Custody	472	10.8	515	11.3
Access	68	1.6	125	2.7
Other	191	4.4	96	2.1
Protection of Children Act	265	6.1	254	5.6
Children of Unmarried Parents Act	23	0.5	30	0.7
Interim Applications	20	0.5	57	1.3
Registrar's Hearing	47	1.1	62	1.4
Variation of Court Order	107	2.4	158	3.5
Divorce Act				
Defended	371	8.5	369	8.1
Undefended	2,038	46.7	1,991	43.8
Equal Guardianship of Infants Act	65	1.5	82	1.8
Adoption Act	23	0.5	14	0.3
Appeals	16	0.4	23	0.5
Other	181	4.1	186	4.1
TOTAL	4,361	100.0	4,548	100.0

Other Civil Cases

In areas where there are full-time Legal Aid Society offices, staff lawyers are expected to provide legal advice and counsel in all aspects of civil law not covered by the Family Law Tariff. This is subject to the exception that Legal Aid is not normally available for:

1) preparation of wills
2) settling of estates
3) controverting elections
4) Small Claims Court actions
5) breach of promise to marry actions
6) cases in which a private practitioner will accept a retainer on a contingency fee basis.

The Society has also been attempting to expand the services of the regional offices despite the maintenance of existing staff levels. In Vancouver, the staff has operated part-time clinics at First United Church in the downtown east side of the City, and at MOSAIC (the Multi-bilingual Orientation Service Association for Immigrant Communities). Part-time clinics have been operated in Vernon by the Kelowna staff, in Port Alberni by the Nanaimo staff, and in Courtenay by the Campbell River staff.

In addition, the Campbell River staff is continuing to provide duty counsel services

on the court circuit to Bella Coola, Ocean Falls, and Bella Bella. Travelling duty counsel, using lawyers from private practice, are provided to Cassiar, Lower Post and other northern parts of the province.

The Society is indebted to those members of the Bar who have provided great assistance to Legal Aid clients, often with little or no remuneration.

Institution Program

In February, the Society presented a brief to the Proudfoot Enquiry on Womens' Prisons and made recommendations for improvements in the prison system based on staff experience in the institution program operated from the New Westminster office.

Research and Planning

The Vancouver office has staff engaged in research, program development and the formulation of recommendations for change in the legal aid system. During the past year a great deal of attention was focused on the merits of a "public defender" method of delivering legal aid. This study resulted in the proposal of an experimental criminal defence office to be opened in October 1978 for a period of two and one-half years.

B. COMMUNITY LAW OFFICES

The Legal Services Commission contracts with a number of independent, incorporated societies throughout the province which provide legal information and assistance to the public. These offices are located in a number of centres as set out below:

Nanaimo Community Law Office
Smithers Community Law Centre Society
Legal Information Service (Maple Ridge)
Abbotsford Community Legal Services
The Law Centre/Greater Victoria Community Action Group
Kamloops Civil Liberties Society
South Okanagan Civil Liberties Society (Penticton)
Powell River Civil Liberties Association
Quesnel Human Rights and Civil Liberties Association
Williams Lake Human Rights and Civil Liberties Association
Westminster Community Legal Services Society (New Westminster)
*Haida Counselling and Legal Assistance Society (Skidegate, Massett)
*Upper Skeena Counselling and Legal Assistance Society (Hazelton)
*Nicola Valley Friendship Centre (Merritt)

*Native Community Law Offices

The staff of these community law offices are employed by and directly responsible to the local boards. Board members are elected from their communities to ensure that the services provided by the office meet the needs of that particular community. The boards are accountable to the Commission for the funds that they receive, and co-operate with the Commission in providing information on the services and activities of the office. The information forwarded to the Commission includes:

1) regular financial reports,
2) monthly reports on client cases closed for the month, and
3) activity reports on non-case activities, such as public legal education programs and community development work.

The work of the community law offices is focused both on direct legal services and on education and informative programs. The staff who deliver these services are a diversified group, including some staff lawyers, legal information counsellors, secretaries and office administrators. Statistics on the type of client cases handled by the community law offices are reproduced below. The statistics represent province-wide totals and do not show the variations of types of cases handled by each office. They also do not indicate the large numbers of people who obtain only information or materials from community law office staff.

The services offered by the community law offices are intended to complement rather than duplicate the services provided by the private Bar. Approximately 90% of the individual community law office clients were provided with the following types of services:

1) provision of legal information,
2) assist people to identify and understand their problems in legal terms,
3) assist with court procedures and Legal Aid applications,
4) assistance in dealing with administrative tribunals and government departments,
5) referrals to lawyers and other community services

Each community law office has either a staff lawyer or a local consulting lawyer to provide both general and direct assistance in difficult cases. However, 88% of all cases are handled by the legal information workers and secretarial staff. Matrimonial legal problems and criminal law problems are the most common type of case handled by the community law offices. The following table indicates the types of problems routinely handled by the community law offices:

TABLE III

TYPES OF PROBLEMS ROUTINELY HANDLED BY COMMUNITY LAW OFFICES

Problem Category	#of cases per problem category	% of total 18,955 cases
1. Matrimonial/family	4,107	21.8
2. Criminal	3,358	17.7
3. Consumer	1,529	8.1
4. Landlord/tenant	1,487	7.8
5. Legal Aid	1,136	6.0
6. Ministry of Human Resources	1,138	6.0
7. Debt	1,100	5.8
8. UIC	1,080	5.7
9. Property/real estate	943	5.0
10. Motor Vehicle/ICBC	849	4.5
11. Small Claims	862	4.5
12. Wills/estates	671	3.5
13. Income Tax	646	3.4
14. Labour	611	3.2
15. Pension	479	2.5
16. Insurance	270	1.4
17. WCB	224	1.2
18. Lawyer Complaint	190	1.0
19. Immigration	164	.9
20. Human Rights	161	.8
21. Police Complaint	132	.7
22. Municipal	99	.5

The indirect legal services provided by community law offices are designed to provide information about the law to the community and to reduce the need for individual counselling on legal problems. These informational sessions, or public legal education programs, are developed by each community law office with regard to the individual needs of the community. Special interest groups such as senior citizens or tenants groups may be serviced by these programs. A sampling of the public legal education programs sponsored by the community law offices during 1977/78 includes:

TABLE IV

SAMPLING OF PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY THE COMMUNITY LAW OFFICES DURING 1977/78.

Abbotsford Community Legal Services: programs on prisoner's rights and radio programs with Hope Radio CKGO and Abbotsford Radio CFVR.

Community Action Legal Assistance, Law Centre (Victoria): series of one hour television programs on current legal issues.

Haida Counselling and Legal Assistance Society (Massett): program on environmental issues co-sponsored with West Coast Environmental Law Association and a series of consumer advice leaflets.

Legal Information Centre (Kamloops): sponsored weekly television series, "Issues at Law".

Legal Information Services (Maple Ridge): seminar for small businessmen on employer/employee relations, and consumer law for the retailer, and a regular publication, "The Price Tag", a bulletin for consumers.

Smithers Community Law Centre: regular production of a Newsletter distributed throughout the area, and fall and spring public legal education programs.

Westminster Community Legal Services Society: fall and spring lecture series and the publication, "When I'm 64", a booklet on benefits for senior citizens.

C. NATIVE LEGAL SERVICES

Three of the community law offices — those in Hazelton, Merritt and the Queen Charlotte Islands — are funded by the Native Legal Services branch of the Commission. These offices provide legal services to predominatly Native Indian communities with their main concern being the special needs of Native peoples. The services of these offices are open to all members of the community, non-Native as well as Native. Rather than counselling in the criminal courts, which is provided by the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association, the Native community law offices do casework in civil matters, many of which cases affect Native peoples, such as fishing rights. The Native community law offices also provide information and

education programs.

The Native Legal Services branch also provides funding for legal information counsellors in Friendship Centres in Smithers, Port Alberni, Mission and Fort St. John.

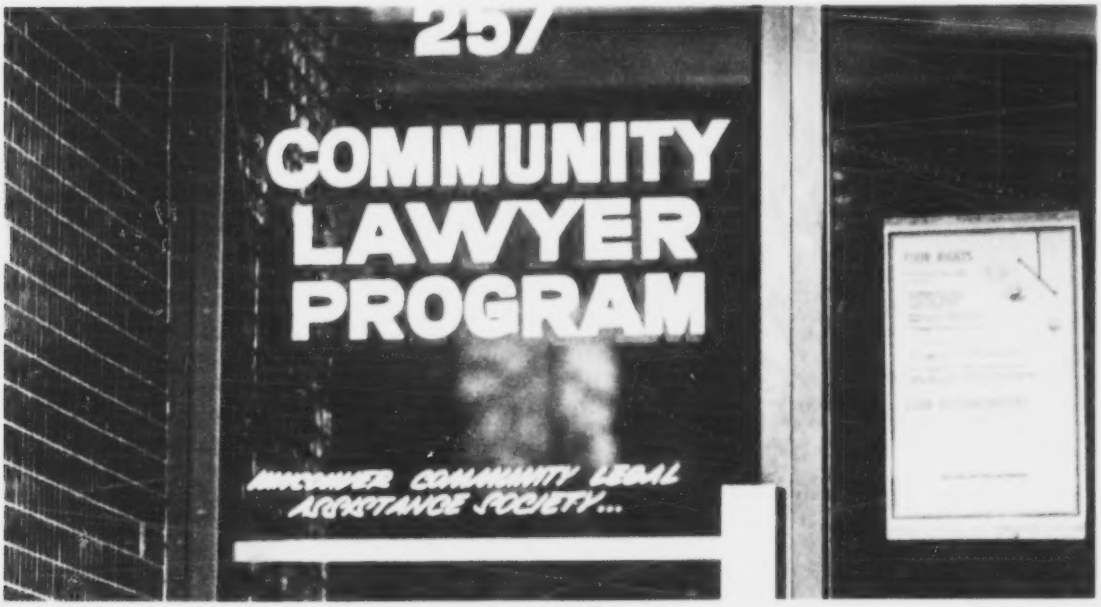
D. VANCOUVER COMMUNITY LEGAL ASSISTANCE SOCIETY

Economic deprivation creates a strong need for legal services by low income people. In the Vancouver area the specific aim of one society (actually a very specialized "community law office") is to provide legal services to low income people and groups, and to encourage law reform for the betterment of low income people. This is the Vancouver Community Legal Assistance Society (VCLAS), which receives 33% of its funding from the Legal Services Commission.

VCLAS has a staff of six lawyers and five support personnel. They are involved in such programs as assisting low income groups to incorporate under the Societies Act, welfare appeals, landlord/tenant and UIC cases, assistance in family law problems by telephone, and supervision of the Law Students Legal Advice Clinics throughout Greater Vancouver.

VCLAS also has special programs which include work with the Labour Advocacy and Research Association towards the enforcement and improvement of farm labour laws, work with the Mental Patient's Advocate Project which is concerned with the legal problems of mental patients; and work towards the introduction of legislation for unorganized workers pertaining to wrongful dismissal.

Test cases or class actions are also undertaken by VCLAS. Cases initiated during 1977/78 involved the constitutionality of certain provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Act dealing with pregnancy benefits and the constitutional authority of the provincial government to collect sales tax on electricity going to Indian Reserves.



E. ELIZABETH FRY SOCIETY

The special needs of women in conflict with the law are served by the Elizabeth Fry Society. Elizabeth Fry Society organizations are located in Vancouver, Kelowna and Kamloops. The Legal Services Commission funds a portion of the salaries and operating expenses of staff courtworkers in Vancouver and Kelowna.

The Elizabeth Fry Society staff organizes volunteers to provide courtworker services to men and women making court appearances. The courtworker interviews the client, provides information on court procedures, arranges for lawyers for bail hearings or sureties for bail, makes referrals to a lawyer or Legal Aid, and provides general support and counselling. The Society in Vancouver provides additional counselling for women, including a program of community access workers in Oakalla and Twin Maples, a group counselling program for shoplifters, and a rehabilitative residence for women.

F. NATIVE COURTWORKER AND COUNSELLING ASSOCIATION

Native people in British Columbia have specific legal problems, particularly in relation to criminal law, which require services aimed at solving these problems. A major provider of these services is the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association, which was established primarily because the large number of Native people were being processed through the criminal court system.

The Native Courtworker and Counselling Association's objectives are:

> *"To give Native people in the Province of British Columbia more knowledge of their rights and responsibilities in the justice system, and to increase understanding and acceptance of the circumstances in the culture of Native people, in order to reduce the amount of conflict between Native people and the justice system."*

A major part of the Association's work is to provide a courtworker service to Native people charged with offences. Courtwork involves the following activities:

1) assist clients to understand Court procedures
2) inform clients of their rights
3) provide information to the courts for adjournments, bail hearing, trials and sentencing
4) refer clients for legal assistance and other related services
5) counsel clients about their actions and problems

The secondary work of the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association includes the provision of general information about the justice system to Native people, prison liaison work, research, training, assistance in Protection of Children Act applications, community legal education programs, sensitization workshops with the RCMP and the Federal Penitentiary Services, and alcohol counselling.

TABLE V

NUMBER OF TIMES COURTWORKERS PROVIDED VARIOUS FORMS OF ASSISTANCE TO THEIR CLIENTS IN 1977/78.

1.	Speaking to sentence	3,223
2.	Locate interpreter or interpret	736
3.	Probation supervision	2,378
4.	Bail supervision	1,994
5.	Breaching of bail – probation	650
6.	Referral for legal assistance	5,382
7.	Counselling – interview	13,377
8.	Assistance with Family Court application	508
9.	Referral to:	
	a) Human Resources	1,172
	b) Employment services	889
	c) Alcohol counsellor	1,518
	d) Educational Institution	510
	e) Other	1,042
10.	Assistance with civil problem	2,783

TABLE VI

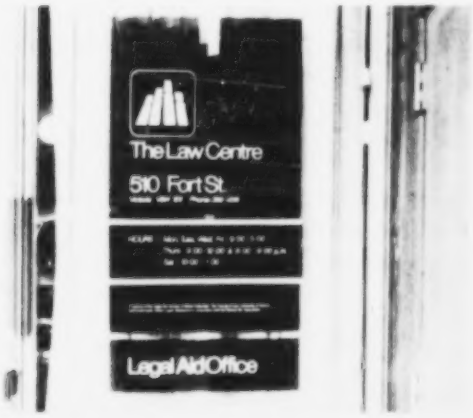
STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON NATIVE CLIENTS

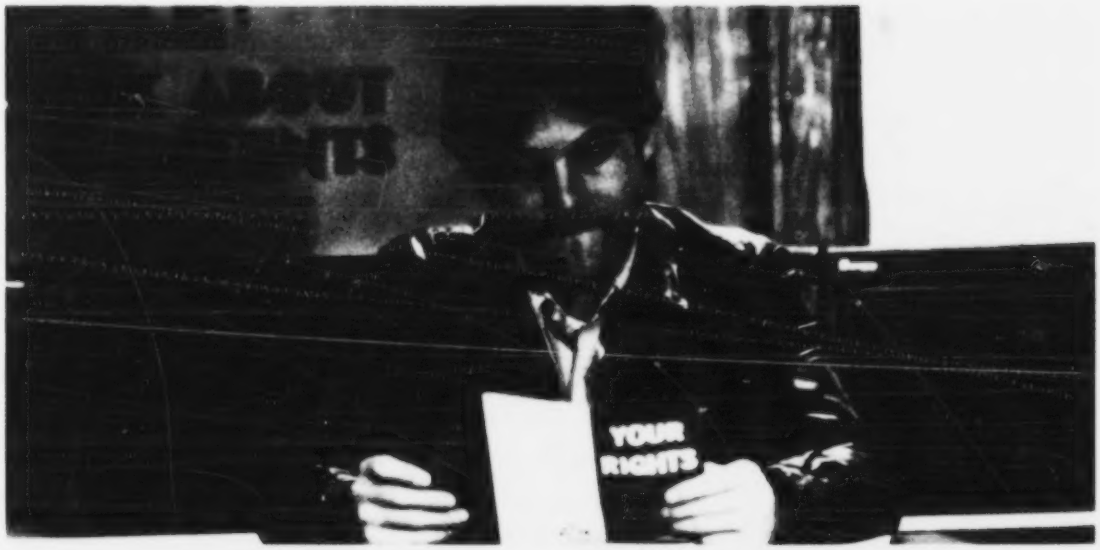
Number of Native people appearing in courts attended by Native Courtworkers during 1977/78 (total of daily counts)		*12,917
Number of clients whose cases were completed in 1977/78		3,140
Client Description		
	Number	Percent
1) Adult	2,811	90%
2) Juvenile	321	10%
3) Juvenile raised to Adult Court	12	0%
TOTAL	3,144	100%
Sex:		
1) Male	2,544	82%
2) Female	573	18%
TOTAL	3,117	100%

Continued next page.

Representation at Trial:		
1) Lawyer paid for by self	132	5%
2) Lawyer paid for by Legal Aid, etc.	1,186	39%
3) Lawyer from Community Law Office	29	1%
4) Lawyer acting free of charge	39	1%
5) Unrepresented except by Courtworker	1,639	54%
TOTAL	3,025	100%

* One accused may appear in court a number of times on one charge. This total is the number of appearances which all clients made during the year.





CHAPTER III

Indirect Legal Services

The Legal Services Commission not only administers the distribution of funds to the agencies previously discussed, but the staff of the Commission also provides extensive support services to agencies delivering various types of legal services to the public. These support services include training of community legal workers, research into legal services issues, evaluation of funded programs, co-ordination of public legal education programs, provision of legal information services through the Legal Resource Centre, and development of schools legal education programs.

Training

The training department of the Commission provides community legal workers with a basic understanding of the legal subjects and the skills required to perform their jobs. Through distribution of materials directly to the offices, and through training workshops, both new and experienced workers are informed about the law and kept up-to-date with recent changes in legislation. The training department offers these workshops to supplement the in-house training services offered by each funded organization. The Commission also co-sponsors workshops with the Legal Aid Society and the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of British Columbia.

The following workshops were held from April 1, 1977 to March 31, 1978:

TABLE VII

WORKSHOPS HELD FROM APRIL 1, 1977 TO MARCH 31, 1978:

Date	Subject
March 1977	Juvenile & Family Law
July 1977	Contract, Administrative & Family Law
November 1977	Landlord/Tenant Law
January 1978	Introduction to Legal Aid, Family Law – joint Legal Aid
February 1978	Consumer Law, Landlord/Tenant Law – joint Legal Aid
February 1978	Issues on Indian Act – joint Native Courtworkers
March 1978	Administrative Tribunals
March 1978	Board Members Conference
March/April 1978	Law & The Elderly – Continuing Legal Education course

In February 1978, a planning committee on paralegal training was formed by representatives of various agencies funded by the Commission to plan the development of training programs and materials for community legal workers.

Research and Evaluation

In February 1978, the Commission took on staff Commission Counsel who is responsible for research into legal services issues (such as advertising, solicitor/client privilege, prepaid legal services, and client contributions to legal aid services), and the evaluation of services and programs funded by the Commission. In addition, Commission Counsel is responsible for the legal work within the Commission, such as drafting and reviewing of contracts, attendance at hearings and meetings, preparing legal

opinions for the Commissioners or the Executive Director, and reviewing proposed publications for legal content.

The research and evaluation function of the Commission is to be an important element in the Commission's planning of future services.

Public Legal Education and Legal Information Services

The Public Legal Education and the Legal Information Services branches of the Commission provide legal education and information services to the general public.

The Public Legal Education branch funds and provides staff consultation for programs which increase the general public's understanding and awareness of the law and the legal system. The programs include those sponsored by the major public legal education organizations, such as Vancouver People's Law School (which produces publications and organizes workshops throughout the province) and Interior Public Legal Awareness Society (which sponsors education programs in the interior of the province), as well as those organized by special interest groups, and by the community law offices. Other groups supported include West Coast Environmental Law Association, Rape Relief, Vancouver Status of Women, and the "Ethnic You and the Law Program" which provides public legal education programs over the radio in Chinese and Punjabi.

The Legal Information Services branch assists public libraries to train their staff in the use and maintenance of legal materials. Studies have found that libraries are the most accessible source of legal information for the general public.

During the year the Legal Information Services branch developed an informational program in co-operation with the Greater Vancouver Library Federation to inform the public of the availability of legal information through libraries. Individual libraries also developed their own "legal awareness" programs.

In order to train a large number of librarians in legal bibliography work, the following legal information workshops were conducted during the year:

TABLE VIII

LEGAL INFORMATION WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED IN 1977/78:

Date	Subject	Location
July 1977	Legal Bibliography Course: UBC Law Library (Sponsored 6 librarians to attend 6 week course)	Vancouver
September 1977	Legal Information & Bibliography: Burns Lake Community Development Association	Burns Lake
September 1977	Legal Information & Bibliography: Quesnel (Various libraries from Quesnel and Prince Rupert)	Quesnel
September 1977	Legal Information & Bibliography: Smithers (Libraries and other agencies)	Smithers
September/October 1977	Legal Information & Bibliography: Dawson Creek (Libraries and other agencies)	Dawson Creek
October 1977	Legal Information & Bibliography: (Vancouver School Board)	Vancouver
October 1977	North Shore Family Services: Family Law	North Vancouver
November 1977	Indian Homemaker's Workshop: "Juveniles and the Law"	Vancouver
November 1977	Legal Information & Bibliography: Castlegar – for Kootenay Library System Society	Castlegar
December 1977	Legal Information & Bibliography: (Burnaby Public Library)	Burnaby
January 1978	Community Workshop Mission Friendship Centre	Mission
January 1978	Legal Information & Bibliography: (For Government Librarians Association)	Victoria
February 1978	Rape Relief Court Workshop	Vancouver
February 1978	Legal Information & Bibliography: (Prince Rupert Library)	Prince Rupert
March 1978	Legal Information & Bibliography: (Vancouver School Board)	Vancouver
April 1978	Legal Information & Bibliography: (For North Shore Libraries)	Vancouver

Further, Public Legal Education and the Legal Information Services branches jointly produced and sponsored publications intended to explain the law to the lay public.

The table below outlines the publications produced and distributed by these branches of the Commission.

TABLE IX

PUBLICATIONS PRODUCED AND DISTRIBUTED BY THE PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION AND LEGAL INFORMATION SERVICES BRANCHES IN 1977/78:

Title	No. Distributed
Family Law Pamphlets (5 of these, at 2,500 each)	12,500
Report on Community Hearings	7,500
Annual Report	7,500
Legal Services Commission Newsletter (4 issues, at 5,000 each)	20,000
Legal Services Commission Bulletin (2 issues, at 5,000 each)	10,000
Legal Services Commission Legal Resource Centre Brochure (2 runs of 2,500 each)	5,000
A Legal Collection for High School and Other Non-Legal Libraries in British Columbia	2,500
Popular Guide to Legal Research	2,000
Common Law for Common Folk	2,200
Public Legal Information (workshop kits)	500
TOTAL	69,700

These branches also support an in-house Legal Resource Centre. The Resource Centre collects all legal materials, both print and audio-visual, produced for lay people in Canada. The Resource Centre is like a public library in that anyone may consult its materials, but it is also a special library in that it houses a collection of research material on legal services and on law and law-related topics of interest to community law offices, libraries, teachers and students. The Resource Centre also serves as the back-up for its staff who operate a legal information telephone line which provides basic information and referral of members of the public to agencies which can assist them.

Schools Legal Education Project

The overall objective of the Schools Legal Education Project is to improve the quantity and quality of legal education in the British Columbia school system so that students may become more familiar with their responsibilities and rights as citizens under the rule of law.

Since 1975 the Schools Legal Education Project has been involved in the development of legal curriculum materials, in conducting workshops for teachers in substantive law and training methodology, and in encouraging the development of more law courses and units of law in other disciplines such as Social Studies, General Business and Science.

i) Curriculum Development Projects

The Schools Legal Education Project assists in the development of teaching materials in law either by funding local teachers to develop units in law (locally-developed programs) or by contracting out to legal and educational curriculum experts. These materials are then published, advertised in Schools Legal Education Project's Newsletter, and then distributed. Many of these teaching aids represent the only available material for school use on certain topics. Both audio-visual and print media are used.

ii) Educational Programs

Since most teachers of law courses or units are not legally trained, there is a need to upgrade their knowledge of the law. Numerous teacher workshops were organized by or attended by the Schools Legal Education Project, ranging in size from 19 to 120 participants, and resulting in a total of 1,486 participants.

TABLE X

SCHOOLS LEGAL EDUCATION PROJECT WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED IN 1977/78:

Date	Subject	Location
1. CONFERENCES		
November 1977	Conflict in the Schools	Vancouver
January 1978	How to Use the Law Game	Vancouver
March 1978	Family and Criminal Law	Kamloops
2. WORKSHOPS WHERE SCHOOLS LEGAL EDUCATION PROJECT PERSONNEL ACTED AS RESOURCE PERSONS		
October 1977	Audio-visual materials in the classroom	Campbell River
November 1977	Why and How to Teach Law in the Schools	Vancouver
January 1978	Overcoming Racial and Cultural Discrimination	Mission
February 1978	(a) How to Use the Law Game (b) Introducing Legal Concepts through Puppetry	Oliver
February 1978	(a) How to Use the Services of the Schools Project (b) Puppetry in the Elementary Schools	Surrey
3. STUDENT WORKSHOPS		
February 1978	Sexism, Schools and Society	Vancouver
March/April 1978	Organization of several law-related tours	Moricetown

iii) Courtwatching Program

The Courtwatching Program brings teachers and their classes in contact with University of British Columbia or University of Victoria law students who make the necessary courtroom arrangements, act as guides during the courtroom visit, and often provide a follow-up visit in the classroom to explain the court proceedings and answer questions. A total of 2,019 students from the Lower Mainland and Greater Victoria participated.

A rural Courtwatching Program was also instituted which has enabled teachers and students in isolated areas to travel to the nearest court.

Appendix A

The Legal Services Commission is required by Section 14 of the Legal Services Commission Act to include in this Report an audited financial statement for the preceding fiscal year. Such a statement is set out in Appendix A to this Report.

The Act also requires the Commission to submit a draft budget for the next fiscal year. A synopsis of this draft budget for April 1, 1978 to March 31, 1979 is set out as Appendix B to this report.

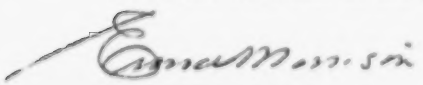
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR PRECEDING YEAR

AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Attorney-General
Province of British Columbia:

I have examined the statement of financial position of the Legal Services Commission as at 31 March 1978 and the statement of income and expenditures for the year then ended. My examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests and other procedures as I considered necessary in the circumstances.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Commission as at 31 March 1978 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles which, except for the change relating to recoveries from projects as referred to in Note 3 to the financial statements, have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.



Erma Morrison, C.A.
Auditor-General

Victoria, British Columbia
13 July 1978

LEGAL SERVICES COMMISSION

Notes to the Financial Statements
March 31, 1978

1. Significant Accounting Policies

   a) Tariffs are amounts billed to and approved by the Legal Aid Society for solicitors' fees and costs associated with providing legal aid to persons in need. The approved bills are paid by the Province of British Columbia, through the Ministry of the Attorney-General, and are charged as grants made by the Province to the Legal Services Commission.

   b) Fixed asset costs of the Commission are amortized over five years on a straight line basis.

2. Fixed Asset Amortization

	1978			1977
	Cost	Amortization	Net Book Value	Net Book Value
Office equipment	$ 39,513	$ 12,820	$ 26,693	$ 19,672
Library	48,788	12,350	36,438	10,368
	$ 88,301	$ 25,170	$ 63,131	$ 30,040

3. Recoveries from Projects

   Under the terms of the contracts between the Commission and the Community Law Offices and other Societies, any surplus accumulated by the grantees from the funds paid by the Commission as at 31 March is refundable to the Commission. A provision of $100,000 had been recorded to reflect the estimated refundable surpluses as at 31 March 1977. $5,512 was recovered, and the balance of $94,488 has been charged against the current year's operations. As at 31 March 1978 under-expenditures recoverable under contracts are estimated as amounting to $75,000. This amount has not been recorded in the accounts.

4. Commitments

   The Commission's lease for office space expires on 30 June 1979, with annual rental payments totalling $40,000.

LEGAL SERVICES COMMISSION

EXHIBIT A

Statement of Financial Position
As at March 31, 1978

		1978	1977
Assets			
Cash and term deposits		$ 238,362	$ 687,013
Accounts receivable		256	7,867
Provision for recoveries from projects (note 3)		–	100,000
Prepaid expenses		5,000	–
Fixed assets (note 2)			
Office equipment		26,693	19,672
Library		36,438	10,368
		$ 306,749	$ 824,920
Liabilities and Surplus			
Accounts payable		$ 120,111	$ 41,300
Surplus			
Beginning of year	$ 783,620		
Less-excess of expenditure over income for the year – EXHIBIT B	596,982	186,638	783,620
		$ 306,749	$ 824,920

Approved by the Commission:

Duncan W. Shaw – Chairman

The four accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

LEGAL SERVICES COMMISSION

EXHIBIT B

Statement of Income and Expenditure
For the Year Ended March 31, 1978

	1978	1977
Income		
Province of British Columbia	$ 7,275,491	$ 7,172,470
Government of Canada	350,000	300,000
Law Foundation of British Columbia	25,000	106,439
Investment income	29,088	55,538
Miscellaneous income	4,819	–
	7,684,398	7,634,447
Expenditure		
Funding:		
Legal Aid Society – operating grants	1,048,766	921,200
Legal Aid Society – tariffs (note 1)	3,805,249	3,927,318
Native Courtworker and Counselling Association	957,725	750,000
Community law offices (Schedule 1)	943,750	731,304
Public schools (Schedule 1)	147,252	148,514
Information, education and training (Schedule 1)	322,058	303,843
Native programs (Schedule 1)	441,581	334,130
Other projects (Schedule 1)	114,894	88,282
Recoveries from projects (note 3)	94,488	(100,000)
	7,875,763	7,104,591
Administration:		
Salaries	132,618	120,492
Employee benefits	7,160	5,225
Commissioners fees and expenses	44,574	32,315
Consulting and fees for service	57,916	8,244
Travel and conferences	7,798	78
Equipment rental and maintenance	5,748	10,821
Office supplies and expense	18,848	16,105
Office maintenance and improvements	13,069	5,018
Books and periodicals	33,478	7,213
Printing and reports	22,294	9,813
Advertising	8,754	6,443
Rent	35,700	17,286
Amortization	17,660	7,510
	405,617	246,563
	8,281,380	7,351,154
Excess of expenditure over income – EXHIBIT A	$ 596,982	$ (283,293)

LEGAL SERVICES COMMISSION

Schedule 1

Projects
For the Year Ended March 31, 1978

	1978	1977
Community Law Offices		
Nanaimo Community Law Office	$ 55,605	$ 32,104
Smithers Community Law Centre Society	98,296	79,405
Legal Information Service – Maple Ridge	57,000	41,865
Matsqui, Sumas, Abbotsford Community Services Society	76,683	44,100
Greater Victoria Community Action Legal Assistance	102,630	97,744
Kamloops Civil Liberties Society	61,569	56,816
South Okanagan Civil Liberties	70,805	62,846
Powell River Civil Liberties	70,170	58,613
Quesnel Human Rights and Civil Liberties Association	61,044	50,031
Williams Lake Human Rights and Civil Liberties Associations	52,387	38,828
Vancouver Community Legal Assistance Society	40,000	40,000
New Westminster Legal Assistance Society	115,334	64,452
Elizabeth Fry Society	82,227	64,500
EXHIBIT B	$ 943,750	$ 731,304
Public Schools		
Salaries and benefits	$ 25,355	$ 57,164
Travel	7,311	1,816
Court watching	7,220	2,654
Newsletter	3,499	1,015
Curriculum development	13,080	36,447
Consultants	381	1,254
Reports, printing, proposals	5,728	2,039
Workshops	8,201	7,782
Classroom teaching and learning aids	29,261	31,710
Slide presentation	–	2,883
University of Victoria law course	–	3,750
Teachers' contracts	37,939	–
Stenographic services	1,640	–
Evaluations	2,635	–
Resource centre people	5,002	–
EXHIBIT B	$ 147,252	$ 148,514
Information, Education and Training		
Salaries and benefits	$ 113,598	$ 101,321
Travel	11,508	9,665
Consultants	–	2,791
	125,106	113,777

Information:		
Statutes	–	1,860
Public library grants	25,621	30,590
U.B.C. legal bibliography	–	863
Workshops	–	4,969
Union catalogue	–	3,819
Wills and estates handbook	2,175	2,034
Legislative digest	–	3,015
	27,796	47,150
Education:		
Ethnic programs	7,493	26,814
Vancouver People's Law School	16,500	16,500
Newspaper columns on the law	1,400	100
Media programs	3,670	750
Interior public awareness	47,600	30,000
Publications	3,382	14,143
History of the law	747	1,166
Labour advocacy handbook	–	1,000
Public legal education projects	17,236	15,784
Small claims	–	1,126
You and the law	30,014	–
	128,042	107,383
Training:		
Training and workshops – community law offices	41,114	35,533
EXHIBIT B	$ 322,058	$ 303,843
Native Programs		
Salaries and benefits	$ 75,867	$ 73,133
Travel	22,834	15,170
Friendship Centres – Fort St. John	17,923	9,755
– Mission	17,330	8,695
– Port Alberni	21,124	9,275
– Smithers	13,044	7,035
Upper Skeena Counselling and Legal Assistance Society	38,146	22,120
P.A.C.I.F.I.C.	37,474	36,942
Nicola Valley Friendship and Counselling Society	53,954	62,314
Haida Counselling and Legal Association	101,268	88,793
Special projects and miscellaneous expense	42,617	898
EXHIBIT B	$ 441,581	$ 334,130

Other Projects		
Public hearings	$ 15,052	$ 31,488
Research	30,799	12,497
F.H. Zemans	4,583	–
University of British Columbia – Summer Students	20,000	12,000
University of Victoria – Summer Students	13,500	17,000
University of Victoria – Law Centre	23,087	–
Miscellaneous disbursements	7,873	1,599
Workshops for community law office boards	–	7,198
National Information Bank	–	1,500
West Coast Environmental Law Association	–	5,000
EXHIBIT B	$ 114,894	$ 88,282

Appendix B

DRAFT BUDGET FOR 1978-1979

LEGAL SERVICES COMMISSION

1978-1979 Budget Proposal

1. DIRECT SERVICES	
Legal Aid Society (includes $550,000 from the Law Foundation)	$ 9,122,136
Native Courtworkers	926,336
Elizabeth Fry Society	120,075
Community Law Offices	1,267,434
Native Legal Services	561,536
University Students	155,420
Total Direct Services	12,152,937
2. PUBLIC EDUCATION SERVICES	
Schools Legal Education Project	212,647
Public Legal Education	413,392
Legal Information Services	141,291
Training	90,902
Total Public Education Services	858,232
3. ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT	
Administration	326,818
Research and Development	412,850
Total Administration Support	739,668
TOTAL	$13,750,837